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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 12, 1999.

*Frank P. Beckig*  
Frank P. Beckig

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAY 21 1999



In the application of:

Barry N. GARDINER et al.

Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filing Date: January 9, 1997

For: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

Examiner: Tina T.D. Pham

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Group Art Unit: 3731

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**  
**37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant petitions the Assistant Commissioner for Patents under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated November 12, 1998. This extension will extend the time the response is due from February 12, 1999 to May 12, 1999.

- A third-month extension is requested; the extension fee is \$435.00.
- A [one/two] month Petition for Extension of Time was previously filed with the appropriate fee on .
- The shortened statutory period has been reset by an Advisory Action dated .

A check in the amount of \$435.00 is attached.

05/19/1999 SARAYA 00000151 08781579

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435.00 OP

pa-376675

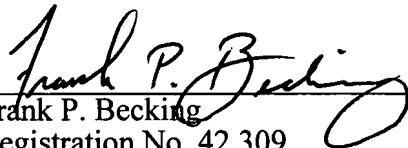
Charge \$ to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 388402000900.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this petition, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 388402000900. A duplicate copy of this petition is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 12, 1999

By:

  
Frank P. Becking  
Registration No. 42,309

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